

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

This Preliminary Amendment is filed in order to facilitate processing in the above identified application. In particular, claims 1, 8 and 13 have been amended, and new claims 19-21 have been added which recite additional features.

Applicants note that neither *Yoshiura et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,157,720) or *Keith* (U.S. Patent No. 5,615,020) show, teach or suggest a compression block data length is larger than an encryption block data length or that the compression block data length is an integer multiple, greater than one, of the encryption block data length as claimed in claims 1, 8 and 13, and new claims 19-21. *Keith* only teaches that the size of the compression block relative to the input/original data. *Keith* does not show, teach or suggest what the size of an encrypted data block would be relative to a compressed data block. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner withdraws the rejection to the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

Thus, it now appears that the application is in condition for a reconsideration and allowance. Reconsideration and allowance at an early date are respectfully requested.

**CONCLUSION**

If for any reason the Examiner feels that the application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact, by telephone, the Applicants' undersigned attorney at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

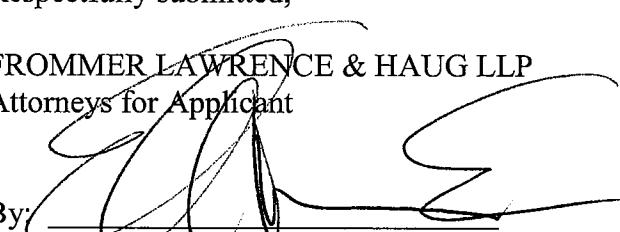
In the event that this paper is not timely filed within the currently set shortened statutory period, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such extension of time may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

In the event that any additional fees are due with this paper, please charge our Deposit Account No. 05-0320.

Respectfully submitted,

FROMMER LAWRENCE & HAUG LLP  
Attorneys for Applicant

By:

  
Elen Marcie Emas  
Reg. No. 32,131  
Tel. (212) 588-0800

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